

TRUE MEN OF TOIL

The Organizations of Grand Rapids.

SHORT SKETCH OF EACH UNION

During the Past Two Years Nineteen Organizations Have Been Found Here—Nearly 5,000 Men.

Tax history of union labor in Grand Rapids dates from the organization, in 1888, of Typographical Union No. 39. There are now thirty-seven labor unions in the city, nineteen of which have been organized within the past two years. The total membership is nearly 4,000.

Little is known of the early history of union labor. It certainly gained little foothold in the city during a period of twenty-five years. In 1833 there were probably five or six unions in the city. About that time the Knights of Labor began to rise, and soon swept the country. Whatever unions there may have been in the city, with the exception of the printers' and cigar-makers, were absorbed by the Knights. They controlled everything, and in the zenith of their power, in 1884, numbered nearly 5,000 members in the city—enough to control the spring election.

Central Labor Union. December 4, 1885, Central Labor union, the corner stone of trades' organizations, was formed. Ten assemblies of Knights of Labor and two trades' unions sent delegates. Three assemblies and twenty-six unions now send delegates to it. In place of the sixteen delegates that organized it, there are now 146 delegates entitled to seats. Its meetings are held in Central Labor union hall, No. 34 Canal street, on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

The Building and Trades' council was organized in January, 1892. It is composed of the Bricklayers, and Stonemasons' union, the Carpenters', four in number, Painters' and Decorators', Plumbers', Steam and Gasfitters', Tin, Sheet-iron and Corroset Workers', Plasterers', Stone Cutters' and Mason Tenders'. The council has rooms over Nos. 12 and 14 Canal street. It meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, and has already done much to advance the cause of the trades organizations.

Typographical Union No. 39. is the largest in the city and numbers 219 members. Every newspaper in the city and every job office of any importance are run by union men. It has had little trouble with its employers, and has always been successful in maintaining the union scale of wages in the city.

The Cigar Makers. Cigar Makers' Union No. 46 was formed October 13, 1879. It had twelve members then. The union has sick and death benefits, life insurance, traveling benefits and the best general system of finance in the United States. It ordered a strike in 1885, and since then all the local factories have been union concerns.

Iron Moulders' Union No. 213 was organized February 11, 1878. It controls its trade completely and has advanced the wages of its men from \$1.75 per day to \$2.50.

The German Cabinet-makers' union was the first union in the furniture trades and dates its existence from 1884. It has never had a strike, and has been of great assistance to its members in procuring work and assisting the sick.

The Tailors' union has lived a precarious existence since April 14, 1887. It was organized in 1884. In 1887 it numbered ninety-nine males and eighty-six female members. A general strike was ordered; but the women refused to join as they were not included in the benefits of the new scale. The strike was a failure, and the union was almost totally wrecked, but is gaining strength now.

Knights of Labor. Stephens L. Assembly No. 3526, Knights of Labor, is composed of furniture workers and has a membership of 100. It meets every Thursday night in Golden Eagle hall and discusses social and economic topics, papers on these subjects being read by its members. As an educational factor it is the equal of any labor organization in the state.

Hop Assembly No. 3693 Knights of Labor has 62 members and was founded March 30, 1885. Its members are Hollanders and its business is transacted in that language.

The Printing Pressmen's union was founded in 1891. It includes among its members nearly every competent pressman within the city. It has regulated the apprentice question and otherwise aided its members.

Liberty Assembly No. 3,389, Knights of Labor. is composed of women, but has a membership of only thirty, notwithstanding there are hundreds of female operatives in the city. It is the only women's labor organization in the city. It is growing, and its members are hopeful of good results.

The Grocery Clerks' union was organized June 13, 1891. It has secured the early closing of grocery stores throughout the city. The rule took effect May 22, 1891, and since then every store of importance has closed at 7 o'clock except on Wednesday and Saturday nights.

The Mason Tenders' union numbers sixty members and meets every Wednesday night in Greenwood hall.

The Team Owners' union is a rapidly growing one, and has done a great deal to do away with horse killing boxes, and to secure fair prices from contractors. It was organized April 14, 1891.

Bricklayers and Stone Masons. The bricklayers and stone masons union contains 150 members. Since its organization in 1884, it has raised the scale of wages from \$3.35 for ten hours work to 45 cents per hour for nine hours. This has been done without a general strike.

There are sixty members of the butchers' union and the organization has succeeded in closing all meat markets at 7 p. m. It was founded in March 1891.

The Painters' and Decorators' union was formed February 25, 1890, with fifty-six members. Last spring the members struck against working with non-union men, but were only partially successful. As a result of the strike the Co-operative Paint and Wall Paper company was formed. The membership of the union is constantly increasing.

Union No. 703 were also organized through No. 65, and are in a flourishing condition.

Most of the cabinet makers in the factories are members of the Cabinet Makers' union. Membership is limited to members of the craft.

There are fifty-five members of the Plumbers' and Gasfitters' union. April 28, 1892, a request was made for nine hours work with ten hours pay, and other requests. It resulted in a strike, but a compromise was finally effected. The union is in excellent financial condition.

The Wood Carvers. The Wood Carvers' association received its charter April 26, 1886. Since that time wages have increased \$1.00 a day. A strike was ordered May 1, 1890, for nine hours' work with a corresponding reduction in wages. Recently wages were raised 3 cents per hour, owing to a scarcity of carvers.

Salesmen's union, No. 1, is composed of clothing, boot and shoe and furnishing goods salesmen. The members have the 6 o'clock closing rule for every evening except Wednesdays and Saturdays, and for a week previous to July 4, and two weeks previous to Christmas.

The Horsehoers union is nearly four years old. It has increased wages to \$2.50 per day. There are eight shops in the city employing union men exclusively.

Holland Furniture Workers' union, No. 1, was organized April 26, 1890, and has a large membership.

Brewers' union, No. 10, has had two strikes. The first, in 1886, for less hours and more pay, resulted in a victory for the union. The second, May 1, 1890, for a further reduction of hours, resulted in another victory. The union is composed of Germans.

The Journeymen Barbers' union No. 3 was formed in 1880. Previous to its organization the barber shops were open until 10 or 11:30 p. m. each day, and until noon Sunday. Now the shops close at 8 p. m. every day except Saturday, when they remain open until 12, but are closed Sunday.

The Machine Woodworkers' union was organized June 7, 1892. It has been a success, notwithstanding the different nationalities among its members.

Bakers and Musicians. Bakers' union No. 57 contains every competent baker in the city. The union has raised wages from \$2 to \$4 a week for its members and shortened the day's work two hours. It has never had a general strike.

Over 100 musicians in the city belong to the Musicians' union. It was organized September 6, 1888. Its object is to elevate the profession and to secure better treatment and consideration, rather than to increase wages. It has had a wonderful influence for good among its members.

The growth of local labor organizations in the city has been rapid and most of the unions that have been formed have survived. The following have disbanded during the past two years: Wood-Turners' Brotherhood; Furniture Workers Protective Association, No. 33; Brotherhood of Street Railway Employees; Shaper Hands Union; Band and Scroll Sawyers and Filers Union, No. 1; Harnessmakers Union, and Teamsters Union.

But it is safe to say that there is not a city in the country containing so many diversified industries as Grand Rapids that has more union men in proportion to the entire number of laborers and workmen.

An Inauspicious Start.

"Good morning, sir," he said as he entered the office and advanced to the gentleman who sat at the desk, "will you kindly permit me to show you?"

"Not today."

"This valuable work? It contains—"

"I haven't time to look now."

"A vast repository of information—"

"Not today."

"On every subject on which you—"

"My dear sir, I—"

"could possibly wish to be informed, if—"

"No, I—"

"is, as you will see, on even a—"

"Look here, sir! I—"

"casual examination, profusely illustrated—"

"Will you listen to me?"

"and handsomely bound in substantial style. 'Sam selling this'—"

"If you don't stop your talk and listen to me a minute I'll shoot the top of your head off with this revolver."

He laid the pistol on the table as he spoke, and the man who had been reciting his lesson paused in its narration.

"How long have you been canvassing for that book?"

"I just received my outfit—not ten minutes ago—and thought I might as well begin work immediately. Got it at an office back there on the same floor of this building as yours."

"I thought so. Now let me tell you that you are in the private office of the manager of that work. I've been trying to tell you that ever since you came in."

"Then I can't sell you a copy, I suppose?"

"No, of course not."

Then the new agent departed with sadness in his steps.—Harper's Bazar.

In the Past Tense.

The fair girl had promised to be his wife, and he was more than proud of it. Possibly she was not, because he had only his money to recommend him.

In any event she had made him swear to keep it a secret until she should tell him to divulge it.

It might have been she had others on the string whom she wished to let down easy.

Such things have happened. One week after he had given her his sacred word of honor she made a round of calls.

When she came home she was anything but angelic in her temper.

She said little, however, for she knew he would be around in the evening.

He did that seven times a week, and was thoroughly unhappy because it was not possible to make it eight or ten.

When he met her betimes she was so frigid that he asked if the register was not turned off.

"Did you," she said, "tell your sister and several other people we were engaged?"

"Yes," he responded hesitatingly.

Her face flushed and her lips quivered with anger.

She was about to fly off the handle, but she took a second thought.

He could see the change, and he felt relieved.

"Pardon me," she said, "for almost forgetting myself. You only spoke the truth. We were engaged."

And the emphasis she crowded into that "were" broke his heart into 375 pieces.—Detroit Free Press.

IS THIS OF INTEREST TO YOU?

IF SO, PAUSE, READ, THEN REFLECT.

This is No Patent Medicine Advertisement!

Nor the bombastic puff of a quack doctor. This advertisement is based on facts—facts that are pure and unadulterated.

I CAN AND DO CURE CANCERS!

My cure is positive, and if you are afflicted I want you to correspond with me.

I USE NO KNIFE

And take no money until cancer is out.

I have in my possession over 1,000 testimonials of patients I have cured of cancer. This list is in circular form, with postoffice address, which I furnish on application.

I HAVE A PRIVATE HOSPITAL

WHERE I TREAT MY PATIENTS.

APPENDED IS A TESTIMONIAL!

I respectfully ask you to carefully peruse it. It speaks for itself. It costs you but two cents to write a letter. It may save your life.

STATE OF WISCONSIN,)
COUNTY OF COLUMBIA,) ss.

Personally appeared before me, a notary public, in and for said county and state, Mrs. Cornelia Ayers, well known by me to be reputable, who being duly sworn deposes and says as follows:

My postoffice address is Portage, Wis. That in the fall of 1882 I noticed a small hard lump in my left breast.

It was not sore or painful and I thought nothing about it, although I noticed it did not go away, and in two or three months I could see it was growing larger, and about that time I discovered several more smaller lumps, or bunches or tumors in the same breast and near the large one. At this time I began to have occasionally slight, darting pains in that breast. I then became alarmed about my condition and called in a physician. He said he could cure me. I then asked him if my trouble was cancer. He laughed at the idea and said "certainly not."

Having great faith in his honor and ability as a physician, I gave myself no further trouble, but commenced to take his medicine and advice faithfully, which I continued to do for nearly one year; during which time my husband paid him considerable money. I discovered in three or four months after the aforesaid M. D. commenced treating me that the tumors in my breast were still growing larger and becoming more painful. Still he assured me they were not cancer tumors. I continued to take his treatment until the fall of 1883, by this time I suffered so much with pain in that breast and down my arm and through my shoulder that I was compelled to keep my bed much of the time. About this time I noticed two spots on my nose—one on each side—that would have spoils of itching, and a dry scale would rub off and in a few days come on again. By this time I became alarmed about my condition, and—as by an act of Providence—I received one of Dr. Bacheler's circulars, advertising himself a cancer specialist.

The circular showed the doctor to be a graduate of the University of Michigan and that he has practiced medicine and surgery for twenty years. He was assistant surgeon of the Twenty-third regiment, Michigan infantry, during the war of the rebellion. The circular said he guaranteed a cure; that he took no pay until the cancer was out, etc. It also gave the names and post-office address of many persons he had cured of cancer with a plaster of his own invention. The circular described very minutely the symptoms of the different kinds of cancer, and upon reading it through carefully, my husband and myself became satisfied that my trouble was cancer. Although I was hardly able to sit up, we started the next day to see Dr. Bacheler. As soon as he examined me he said my trouble was stone cancer of the breast, and that I had two colloid cancers in my nose; all of which frightened me nearly out

of my senses. The doctor assured me at once that he could take them all out, root and branch, and cure me. I finally mustered up courage and remained for treatment. The next morning he commenced to apply his plasters and in just four weeks and four days he had taken out five stone cancers from my left breast and two colloid cancers from my nose and pronounced me cured. In three or four days I returned to my home, where the wounds rapidly healed, and I have been ever since a healthy and happy woman. There has never been any appearance of any return of cancer since, and that was five years ago last February, or February, 1884. I wish to add that while I was at the doctor's under treatment I saw him remove a stone cancer from the left breast of Mrs. L. A. Goodell of Ionia City, as large as a dinner plate. When it came out it left several of her ribs bare to the bone. I know that she is now well and has never had any more cancer. I also

saw the doctor take a colloid cancer, of large as an orange, out of the left side of Mr. M. E. Converse's face. His address is Bloomer Center, Montcalm county, Mich. He too remains well to this time and has never had any return of cancer. I wish to say I make this affidavit at this time for the benefit of any and all persons that are afflicted with cancer and may read of hear of it, and for the purpose of helping advertise and assist J. H. Bacheler, M. D., who saved my life, and deservingly all praise that it is possible for me to express in the English language. To all whom it may concern,

I am very truly,
MRS. CORNELIA AYERS,
Portage, Columbia Co., Wis.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of June, 1889.
S. M. SMITH,
Notary Public.

N. B.—Mrs. Ayer's present address is Portland, Mich.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO

J. H. BACHELER, M. D.,

NO. 28 MONROE STREET,

Grand Rapids, Mich.